

(d) the steps taken to upgrade the Bhubaneswar airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) There are following sixteen airports in the country where facilities for handling export and import of cargo are available :

Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai, Delhi, Nagpur, Guwahati, Lucknow, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Jaipur, Pune, Trivandrum, Varanasi, Amritsar, Srinagar and Kochi.

(b) and (c) At present, the Customs are managing a small facility for processing export and import cargo at this airport. This facility is in operation since 2.8.1995.

(d) Bhubaneswar airport is being upgraded for operation of Airbus 300 class of aircraft. The existing runway is being extended from '7440 to 9000' at a cost of Rs. 12.62 crores. AAI has also constructed a new passenger terminal at a cost of Rs. 17.77 crores which is capable of handling 500 passengers at a time and provided with all modern passenger amenities. Modern navigational and landing aids have been provided for all-weather operations at this airport. The new Terminal Building is also provided with facilities to handle limited international operations.

Employment of Relatives of High Officials in Private Airlines

548. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many relatives of high officials in Indian Airlines, Air India and Airports Authority of India are employed in private airlines which are competing with public sector airlines;

(b) if so, the number of such employees; and

(c) whether Government propose to impose embargo on such employment?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Indian Airlines, Air India and Airports

Authority of India do not maintain employment details of the relatives of their employees.

(c) No Sir.

Inspection of Rajkot Airport

†549. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Chairman of the Airports Authority of India had carried out inspection of the Rajkot Airport recently;
- (b) if so, the details of the inspection carried out by him;
- (c) whether he has proposed that the said airport is not fit for domestic flights; and
- (d) if so, the criteria on the basis of which the said airport has not been found fit?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The observation made in the inspection of Rajkot Airport were communicated to the State Government of Gujarat on 15.11.2000 for the removal of obstructions in the Approach Funnel, which were safety threat to aircraft operations. The State Government (Municipal Authorities) were instructed to enforce the specific height clearances as approved by AAI to remove violations. For extension of runway to 7500 ft. suitable for the operation of Airbus-320 Aircraft additional land is required. Some portion of the land belong to Railways. State highway needs to be diverted. The State Government will coordinate for the exchange of land between State Government & Railways, in order to enable Airports Authority of India to undertake extension of runway, as soon as the land is made available.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.